

ISDS Task Force
Outreach and Training Workgroup
October 3, 2000

Attendants

Joe Frisella, Darlene Gardner, Tom Getz, Jim Riordan

Opening remarks

Jim Riordan gave opening remarks and recommended that the workgroup focus on categories of issues (e.g., septic system inspection).

Issues discussed

- Addressed 3 recommendations related to inspection, operation and maintenance (I, O & M) Policy Issue 2, Administrative Training Issue 2 and Administrative Outreach Issue 3.
- Also discussed homeowner understanding of implications associated with installing and owning an I & A system (e.g., O & M responsibility, electricity costs, aesthetics, etc.).

Current resources available

- DEM has developed an inspection handbook for conventional systems, which is currently in press and will be fully printed later this month.
- URI offers training courses on I, O & M for both the layperson and professional.
- 6 RI communities have adopted the handbook as an inspection standard by ordinance. 15 RI communities have or are currently working on the development of onsite system maintenance programs. DEM has provide 14 grants for this work.

Current needs and recommendations

- A plan to publicize the availability of resources for homeowners, bankers, realtors, professionals and communities. DEM plans to develop a strategy for distribution of the inspection handbook and to reissue the grant RFP for onsite system maintenance programs this fall. The Septic System Maintenance Policy Forum will be used for stakeholder input on these tasks.
- Better and more extensive standardization of I, O & M procedures for I & A systems. (No specific recommendations were developed for this issue)
- Increased homeowner accountability for I, O & M of I & A systems once they are installed. Suggestions were made to increase tracking of these systems through DEM or another entity (e.g. utility, local district, etc.). Require liens and deed restrictions for I, O & M as part of mortgages. This would probably require new legislation.

- Homeowners are ill informed regarding the implications of owning an I & A technology. The group recommended developing a fact sheet with a matrix of different types of I & A technology by characteristics and implications.

Agenda for next meeting (Oct. 23)

- Opening remarks
- Review of 10/3 meeting summary
- Facilitated discussion of issues:
 - What should be done to improve standardization of I, O & M for I & A systems?
 - What can be done to increase owner accountability for I, O & M of I & A systems?
 - Identify and address next issue (recommendation: mechanism to evaluate denitrification issues).
- Adjourn